

4. PROJECT SUMMARY

SNC Reference Number

080154

(enter if previously
assigned)

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Plumas

Applicant: Feather River Land Trust

Project Title: Pearce Family Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of this project is to acquire a conservation easement on the 318-acre Pearce Family Ranch. The Pearce Family Ranch is a 4th generation working ranch still owned and managed by the Pearce Family.

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will enable FRLT to acquire a conservation easement on the 318-acre Pearce Family Ranch in Indian Valley, located in Plumas County (see maps, Sections 8 and 9). The Pearce Ranch is home to river otters, nesting sandhill cranes, beaver, golden eagles, bank swallows, yellow warblers, yellow-breasted chats, 6 native fish species, western pond turtles, and a host of other unique wildlife species (20 special status species in all). The property also supports an array of other important ecological values, including extensive cottonwood-willow riparian, wetland, and montane meadow habitats. The property includes 1.5 miles of Indian Creek, which is very popular locally for hiking, fishing, birding, swimming, and canoeing. The easement will protect a multi-generational, working family ranch while providing scenic open space very

important to Indian Valley and Plumas County. Protecting the Pearce Ranch will address several SNC program areas by: a) Protecting water quality and public use by conserving 1.5 miles of Indian Creek; b) providing educational opportunities as part of FRLT's Learning Landscape Initiative – the owner has agreed to allow educational access via the conservation easement; c) protecting and enhancing local working landscapes and local ranching heritage; and d) assisting the regional economy by maintaining local agricultural (ranching) jobs. In addition, NRCS and FRLT will likely partner with the landowner to help restore Indian Creek if this easement can be completed.

Funds from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will be matched by the Feather River Land Trust (\$26,500), the Northern Sierra Partnership (\$125,000 share of CE purchase and \$50,000 stewardship endowment), and the NRCS Farm and Ranch Protection Program (\$125,000).

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

See section 18 for a letter of support for this project from the Northern Sierra Partnership

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Authorize payment of \$300,000 towards conservation easement acquisition on the Pearce Family Ranch in collaboration with previously listed partners. 100% of SNC funds will be allocated to the conservation easement acquisition cost. All staff and legal time, along with other project costs, will be funded by other sources.	December 2008
Use of SNC funding, along with partner funding to close ESCROW on Pearce Family Ranch.	To be completed by August 2009 or sooner
6 month progress report	June 2009
Final report	January 2010

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
SNC requested share of conservation easement purchase	\$300,000
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$300,000